

File: H_H_Hall_1858_10_04.doc
Typed by C B Berryman 1963
OCR by Ian Bracher April 2010
Checked against MS by IB 12 April 2010

Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 4 October 1858

Cathcart

Oct 4th 1858

My dear brother,

I am in receipt of your two letters dated from Cochran's the last received yesterday, and beg to thank you for the pound note enclosed, it came very opportunely for I have had no boots to wear lately except what I have picked up about the diggings. Taylor returned from Rokewood after an absence of seven weeks hard-up and found me very much the same. I was at work with four others raising pipe clay & headings for a machine and after we had finished that [*indecipherable*] we took him in. By one mischance and another we only shared 9/- each out of 25 loads, the next from 34 loads we shared 26/- each, this is very poor, but as I was situated I was obliged to stick to it. After [?much] consideration I have determined to stick to it for another week as we believe we can get some very much better stuff than any we have had; they charge us 4/- for carting and puddling. If I had not been able to get a little tick I should have been awkwardly fixed, credit here is very limited for so many people have left in the Storekeepers debt. I managed to clear off all debts on Saturday last, so if we prosper this week we shall have something to help us on the road to you, all have left this place who have had the means to go with, Joe the carter has been very ill and hard-up, he will probably be coming down the country shortly, I shall manage very well now for if our stuff deceives I can walk over to you and leave Taylor with the things. I do not think it would be advisable for you to come over, as you would lose so much time and I daresay I could get Joe to take our things for £3. I don't suppose I can get more than 15/- for the fan in Ararat but I suppose it must go. I was speaking to Scotty (Aleck) he says it is probable all their party will be going to Sinnott's or Kay's in ten days or so, but still they could not say for certain. I very much wish you to see your letter from the Swan (which I took the liberty of reading) but I have been afraid you might not receive it. I am anxious to have a yarn with you about my affairs. I am extremely thankful for the care you have manifested lest I should arrive hard up in your absence, and

only hope it may be in my power to make it all right some day — Sarah is very anxious to hear from you. A man was killed on the hill we are working on last Friday, the ground is getting very dangerous — we have had to leave our claim twice — and I shall be thankful when we have done with it — I suppose you are in no hurry to go to Port Curtis. For my part the summer here is hot enough for me. I expect we shall be making preparations for a start next Monday. I was very sorry to hear of the illness of poor R Jones. When the Governor was here I could not afford half a day to have a peep at him. It seems to me the longer I am on the diggings, the harder I must work, the harder I must fare. I saw Jim Turner a fortnight since in Ararat he was looking for work but did not succeed and I believe has returned to the Great Western. He was very short of money. I have written for him to try Ararat again John Turner and Co are still at Rokewood doing nothing. I have written Mrs Bracher and enclosed your address Taylor and Joe desire to be remembered and now my dear brother with many thanks for your kindness I subscribe myself
Yours very affectly
H H Hall